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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To establish a Native American language resource center.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Ms. HAALAND introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL**

To establish a Native American language resource center.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Native American Lan-  
5       guage Resource Center Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

7       The purposes of this Act are to create a national re-  
8       source center to further the policies set forth in the Native  
9       American Languages Act (25 U.S.C. 2901 et seq.) and,  
10      through such national resource center, to—

1           (1) preserve, protect, and promote the rights  
2           and freedom of Native Americans to use, practice,  
3           and develop Native American languages (as defined  
4           in section 103 of the Native American Languages  
5           Act (25 U.S.C. 2902));

6           (2) allow the United States to fulfill its trust  
7           responsibility to Native American communities and  
8           address the effects of past discrimination against  
9           Native American language speakers;

10          (3) support revitalization of Native American  
11          languages;

12          (4) encourage and support the use of Native  
13          American languages as a medium of instruction, in-  
14          cluding use as a medium of education in schools op-  
15          erated by Tribes, States, the Federal Government,  
16          and Native American language educational organiza-  
17          tions;

18          (5) encourage and support the use and develop-  
19          ment of Native American languages as the medium  
20          of instruction for a wide variety of age levels and  
21          academic content areas;

22          (6) encourage and support elementary schools,  
23          secondary schools, and institutions of higher edu-  
24          cation to include Native American languages in the  
25          curriculum in the same manner as other world lan-

1       guages, including through cooperative agreements  
2       and distance education, and to grant proficiency in  
3       Native American languages the same full academic  
4       credit as proficiency in other world languages;

5           (7) encourage and support the development of  
6       appropriate teacher preparation programming for  
7       the teaching of, and through, Native American lan-  
8       guages, including appropriate alternative pathways  
9       to teacher certification;

10          (8) provide a resource base to provide informa-  
11       tion to Federal, Tribal, State, and local governments  
12       and Native American educational organizations to  
13       allow the spread of best practices in the use, prac-  
14       tice, and development of Native American languages  
15       in Native American communities, including use in  
16       educational institutions;

17          (9) provide a resource base for the use of tech-  
18       nology in intensive community-, land-, and archive-  
19       based programs, as well as hybrid and collaborative  
20       programs in supporting the retention, use, develop-  
21       ment, and teaching of Native American languages by  
22       government and private entities;

23          (10) provide a developmental base from which  
24       interested Tribal colleges and universities and other  
25       Native American entities might develop fully func-

1        tioning Native American language medium education  
2        systems that include associated preschool, elemen-  
3        tary school, secondary school, and adult education  
4        programs conducted through the medium of Native  
5        American languages;

6            (11) provide a means to further collaboration  
7        among formal government, institutional, and com-  
8        munity-based Native American language programs,  
9        resources, and research efforts with additional access  
10       to international best practices in indigenous lan-  
11       guage revitalization; and

12           (12) develop a support center system for Native  
13        American language participants to gather and share  
14        helpful information and experiences.

15   **SEC. 3. NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE RESOURCE CENTER.**

16        Section 603 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
17   U.S.C. 1123) is amended—

18           (1) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as  
19        subsections (c) and (d), respectively;

20           (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-  
21        lowing:

22        “(b) NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE RESOURCE CEN-  
23   TER AUTHORIZED.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized  
2           to make a grant to, or enter into a contract with,  
3           an eligible entity for the purpose of—

4                   “(A) establishing, strengthening, and oper-  
5                   ating a Native American language resource and  
6                   training center as described in paragraph (2);  
7                   and

8                   “(B) staffing the center with individuals  
9                   who have high-level fluency in American Indian,  
10                  Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian languages  
11                  and are experienced with Native American lan-  
12                  guage education in the preschool, elementary  
13                  school, secondary school, adult education, and  
14                  higher education programs.

15           “(2) PURPOSES OF CENTER.—The Native  
16           American language resource center established under  
17           paragraph (1) shall serve as a resource to—

18                   “(A) improve the capacity to teach and  
19                   learn Native American languages and further  
20                   Native American language acquisition;

21                   “(B) preserve, protect, and promote the  
22                   rights and freedom of Native Americans to use,  
23                   practice, and develop Native American lan-  
24                   guages;

1           “(C) allow the United States to fulfill its  
2           trust responsibility to Native American commu-  
3           nities and address the effects of past discrimi-  
4           nation against Native American language  
5           speakers;

6           “(D) support revitalization of Native  
7           American languages;

8           “(E) encourage and support the use of Na-  
9           tive American languages as a medium of in-  
10          struction, including use as a medium of edu-  
11          cation in schools operated by Tribes, States, the  
12          Federal Government, and Native American lan-  
13          guage educational organizations;

14          “(F) encourage and support the use and  
15          development of Native American languages as  
16          the medium of instruction for a wide variety of  
17          age levels and academic content areas;

18          “(G) encourage and support elementary  
19          schools, secondary schools, and institutions of  
20          higher education to include Native American  
21          languages in the curriculum in the same man-  
22          ner as other world languages, including through  
23          cooperative agreements and distance education,  
24          and to grant proficiency in Native American

1 languages the same full academic credit as pro-  
2 ficiency in other world languages;

3 “(H) encourage and support the develop-  
4 ment of appropriate teacher preparation pro-  
5 gramming for the teaching of, and through, Na-  
6 tive American languages, including appropriate  
7 alternative pathways to teacher certification;

8 “(I) provide a resource base to provide in-  
9 formation to Federal, Tribal, State, and local  
10 governments and Native American educational  
11 organizations to allow the spread of best prac-  
12 tices in the use, practice, and development of  
13 Native American languages in Native American  
14 communities, including use in educational insti-  
15 tutions;

16 “(J) provide a resource base for the use of  
17 technology in intensive community-, land-, and  
18 archive-based programs, as well as hybrid and  
19 collaborative programs in supporting the reten-  
20 tion, use, development, and teaching of Native  
21 American languages by government and private  
22 entities;

23 “(K) support the acquisition of distance  
24 learning technologies and training for parents,  
25 students, teachers, and learning support staff,

1 including the compilation and curation of dig-  
2 ital libraries and other online resources in tar-  
3 get Native American languages, the develop-  
4 ment of distance learning curricula appropriate  
5 for preschool, elementary school, secondary  
6 school, adult education, and postsecondary edu-  
7 cation, the pedagogical training for teachers,  
8 and other efforts necessary to continue Native  
9 American language acquisition among American  
10 Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian  
11 communities through distance learning;

12 “(L) provide a developmental base from  
13 which interested Tribal colleges and universities  
14 and other Native American entities might de-  
15 velop fully functioning Native American lan-  
16 guage medium education systems that include  
17 associated preschool, elementary school, sec-  
18 ondary school, and adult education programs  
19 conducted through the medium of Native Amer-  
20 ican languages;

21 “(M) provide a means to further collabora-  
22 tion among formal government, institutional,  
23 and community-based Native American lan-  
24 guage programs, resources, and research efforts



1 with additional access to international best  
2 practices in indigenous language revitalization;

3 “(N) develop a support center system for  
4 Native American language participants to gath-  
5 er and share helpful information and experi-  
6 ences; and

7 “(O) address any of the purposes of for-  
8 eign language centers included under this sec-  
9 tion if, in doing so, the Native American lan-  
10 guage resource and training center—

11 “(i) does so as a subsidiary activity;

12 “(ii) focuses benefits on Native Amer-  
13 icans living in Native American commu-  
14 nities, or closely tied to such communities;  
15 and

16 “(iii) ensures that one of the out-  
17 comes being strengthened through this  
18 subparagraph is the use of one or more  
19 Native American languages in a Native  
20 American community.

21 “(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

22 “(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligi-  
23 ble entity’ means—

24 “(i) an institution of higher education;

1 “(ii) a consortium of such institutions;

2 or

3 “(iii) a consortium of such institutions

4 and other entities with unique responsibil-

5 ities for Native American languages.

6 “(B) NATIVE AMERICAN; NATIVE AMER-

7 ICAN LANGUAGE.—The terms ‘Native Amer-

8 ican’ and ‘Native American language’ have the

9 meanings given those terms in section 103 of

10 the Native American Languages Act (25 U.S.C.

11 2902).”; and

12 (3) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) of

13 subsection (c), as redesignated by paragraph (1), by

14 striking “subsection (a)” and inserting “this sec-

15 tion”.